



. . . Artemus struggled over the last peak in his search for the almighty Wizard. He had struggled long and hard for years for this, and he could now taste success. It was cherry flavoured.

"Yes, my son. What can I do for you?" The Wizard's voice boomed out like a directors voice with too much echo. He sat up upon his rock and awaited a reply.

"I have come to ask a boon, O great Wizard!" replied Artemus.

"Stow that great wizard stuff. I only keep it up to keep those villagers down at the bottom of the hill amused. They can get extremely annoying with all their groveling and moaning, but they make the best pizza around, and it's the only way I can get some. Now, what's your boon?"

"I have come to ask about the answer to all of life's miseries, Wizard."

"Chocolate-chip cookees, that's the answer. Everyone likes chocolate-chip cookees, even revolutionaries. They're going to save the world someday. Peanut-butter cookees will help, too.

"But Wizard, I cannot eat chocolate chip-cookees. They make me break out. And peanut-butter sticks to the roof of my mouth. What can I do?"

Hummmmmmmmm. Yours is indeed a hard nut to crack. There is another answer, though it can be dangerous to onesself if one uses it incorrectly. Here, my son, is the answer to life. Normally one cannot look upon it until he has had intense preparation for years, but seeings as you came all this way, here." The wizard handed Artemus a piece of paper. He unfolded it, and this is what he saw:



THE

# BRUTUS BULLETIN

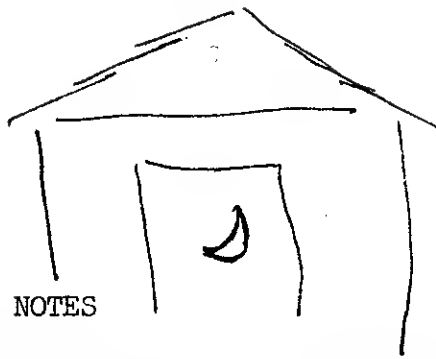
ET TU, BRUTE

ISSUE

III

GAME TWO BEGINS

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a magazine of postal Diplomacy and assorted sundry items brought to you as often as humanly possible by John Michalski, 913 NE Sixth Street, Moore, Oklahoma 73160. No calls. Diplomacy is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Co., Baltimore, MD 21214. BB is available for now for the pittance of \$2 per year, including sub, game fees, and NMR deposit. THERE ARE ~~NO~~ GAME OPENINGS.



## JOHN'S NOTES

It's good to be churning out another issue—only three issues between Nov 28th and January 14 is a little slow for my tastes, but I felt that in fairness to the players, we had to. Personally, my experience is that an extra couple of days for mail to move makes little difference, because it's rare that much needs to be done. I'd like to think that the rest of you DO get & send & need mail. (If not, let me know).

About this issue: the front cover is unabashedly plagiarized from our own John Mirassou's SYA NASTI SAYA DASTI SYA DAVAK TAV YASKA. I thought it was cute, so here it is. If YOU like it, may I suggest you tear it off and use it as a coversheet for something of your own? Imagine lifting it to see some momentous message such as HI DAD! SEND MONEY! or "DEAR GM: F NAP-ION, A VEN-PIE...". The inside cover is blue just to break the monotony. The reason I always used pink is that it's the only color here that's readily available. Note that this blue stuff is perforated across the middle. I could also use light green, if you wouldn't mind black accounting paper on the reverse.

The big news, of course, is that Game II is under way. Of five openings at Thanksgiving, four filled that very weekend, and the last spot filled Tuesday, the day after I mailed issue one. From a game timing standpoint, that was the worst possible time for it to start, as it meant a full six week delay before KNS next spring deadline, but that's the way it fell. I had volunteers for both Austria and Italy, a pleasant surprise. It's a lot easier when I don't have to assign people those countries. For now, Brutus Bulletin is as full as I'll want it. I could go 2 more games, but I'd rather be able to surprise players in 2 games by mailing the issue on deadline dates at times, than to grub, root, and growl to publish within a week of a deadline for four. Better two well-run games than four mediocre ones.

This issue contains another PEANUTS cartoon applicable (more or less) to Diplomacy, hoisted from my daughter's coloring book copyrighted by Charles Schulz (enterprises?), naturally without permission; Bureaucratic Blunders again, which I'll use as a regular feature except when BB gets ahead of Conservative Digest; and bringing up the rear is a page from some pro-gun literature I got in early December. Normally I won't run such things, but this one caught my eye for both the character & examples involved, plus the overall pitch. Nothing I run is to persuade you (altho no one will object if you mail money to the Olympic Committee, TSR, or Second Amendment Foundation). I'm not so naive as to believe BB can be any kind of organ. Rather, it's all here for its curiosity value. If you find something funny, terrific; if it's informative or agreeable, good; if you tear off the page to wipe your rear end with, that's up to you. You may not agree with all that's here, but I'll send it out just as fast and regular as I can. (C)

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING NEXT

1977KN (formerly BRUTUS #1)

FALL 1901

"War in the east,  
war in the west,  
war on the one  
that you love best!"

GOLD DISCOVERED IN BELGIUM!

RUMANIAN AND ARMENIAN TOURISTS ARE REFUSED ENTRY

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A VIE H; A SER S RUSS A Ukr-Rum; F Alb-GRE

ENGLAND (SCOTT): A WAL-Bre; F ENG C A Wal-Bre; F Nth-NWY

FRANCE (DITTER): A BUR-Bel; A Mar-SPA; F MAO-Bre

GERMANY (WORKMAN): F HOLL-Bel; A MUN-Bur; A Kie-RUH

ITALY (MIRASSOU): A Apu-TUN; F ION C A Apu-Tun; A VEN H

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F SEV-Arm; A UKR-Rum; A MOS-Sev; F GoB-SWE

TURKEY (HUESTON): A SMY-Arm; A BUL S F Bla-Rum; F BLA-Rum

Deadline for Winter 1901 builds is my mail received here Thursday, December 29, 1977. You need not send more if some are on file. Builds are needed from: A E F  
SPRING 1902 orders are due here with my mail received here Friday, January 13, 1978. Fall 1902 will ALSO be due in late January, so don't slack off on your negotiations! (This applies to Game #2 also).

COA: JOHN MIRASSOU, to Rt 2, Box 623AC, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 "until January" ((?))  
then back to his school address again.

AUSTRIA: Tri Vie Bud SER GRE	(5)	Build 2
ENGLAND: Edi Lon Lvp NWY	(4)	Build 1
FRANCE: Bre Kie Mun SPA	(4)	Build 1
GERMANY: Ber Kie Mun HOLL	(4)	Build 1
ITALY: Ven Rom Nap TUN	(4)	Build 1
RUSSIA: StP Mos War Sev SWE	(5)	Build 1
TURKEY: Ank Con Smy BUL	(4)	Build 1
NEUTRAL: Bel Por Den Rum	(4)	

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LOADS OF PRESS on second-last sheet (both sides!)! My hearty THANKS to all!

## More JOHN'S NOTES

Speaking of fast and regular, I'd appreciate it if the longer press could get here ahead of deadline by as wide a margin as possible. Now, with only two weeks between issues, I know that doesn't leave much, so I'm not saying "10 days"—two days is fine. Or if you have a whole story and want to send it all in at once, just draw a line where you want each episode to end and I'll run it from there. HOWEVER, I will ALWAYS prefer to receive 2½ pages out of the blue on the very last day, than to get nothing at all. BB is a players zine, I like to think, and YOUR schedule is what counts first. Like I said, if you send in so much stuff that I'm forced to go 11 pages, I'll be glad to go the extra stamp. (In fact, this issue may just have to go double size again, as I've had letters and such come in on top of the special cover prepared, plus features promised). The only time I'd delay or reject anything within reason at all would be if adding the press or filler meant delaying the games. That, I will NOT do.

About last issue: I would have arranged the press differently, but I had too much already typed up to do it any other way. Cal White got the B# to me on the very last day, so I just scrawled it in on the master, ran them off, collated 7 issues, and mailed them that evening. By the way, if Bob Lipton is correct in the last MMG, 77KN is the 300th Boardman number given out this year. ("Whooppee"). Maybe you don't care, but this is my baby, and an exciting game, I think—so I'm impressed. Now I can better understand why Don Horton made special mention of his Claw & Fang receiving the 'honor' of 1977's first B#, 77A. I guess my own first B# would always be special, even if one drew, say, 77BO. In fact, my co-workers might say I deserved it!

A friend who gets a complimentary copy told me his issue had the pages messed up. "I was reading your notes and instead of being continued on the next page, the game was there". Well, that's my fault. The pages were NOT messed up, just my note. "Next page following" meant "skip a page"; now I'll write "page following next" to be clearer. I skip the page because I think the games should have the first facing page. Thus, the face under the title page will always have Game 1 on it (page 3, counting cover as 1) and Game 2 on page 5.

About next issue: The 29th or 30th will see the Winter 01 Supplement (#1), which will be only one page with KNs builds. If you already have builds on file, you needn't send them in again unless you want a change. Included with it will be a test that you can use as you see fit. Slip it onto your boss's desk, anonymously mail it to a favorite professor of Management, stuff it, or whatever. I hope you (or they!) enjoy it. BB #3 will go out the 14th and should arrive the 16th or 17th, and will have a deadline inside January. IF YOU EVER FAIL TO RECEIVE A BB FIVE DAYS AFTER THE DEADLINE, WRITE OR CALL AT ONCE! If I can't mail it, you WILL get a letter saying so! Also, we may have another double issue coming up if some stuff pans out. We'll see.

Feedback—Does anyone have any comments on BB? "No news is good news", and I'll be pleased to go on happily running BB as I damn well see fit—may well do so in any case—but is there anything you like, dislike, hate, love, eat up, or puke out in particular? Want the pace upped to 12 days? Fall back to 17? I won't do so by whim or one request, but I'd be glad to hear your views. I may even use some letters as filler, such as this issue. But, I need letters to do it. How about hobby news? I I get some from Podunk News, Diplomacy Review, and Black Hole once

NOTICE →

"HARK AND FORSCOTH! COME YE FORTH AND SEE THE NEW WONDER OF WOMEN'S BELOW!"



## BRUTUS 2 BEGINS

AUSTRIA: Rick Price, 4724 Denton Street, Boise, Idaho 83704

ENGLAND: David Hunt, 538 Lexington, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

FRANCE: David Grabar, 4346 E Armel Ct, Las Vegas, Nevada 89110

GERMANY: Craig A Reges, 16 W 761 White Pines Rd, Bensenville, Illinois 60106

ITALY: Chip Charnley, US Naval Facility, Box 60, FPO New York 09597

RUSSIA: Rick Kassel, 342 Erie St, Macedon, New York 14502

TURKEY: Lee Kenater, Jr, 4347 Benner St, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19135

A Boardman number has been requested, and if Cal White is as prompt with it as he was with the last one, you may well see it on here just as I was able to scrawl 77KN on the last one at the very last minute. I apologize to all for having to put off the deadline until Friday, JANUARY 13, 1977 (an auspicious date to begin, nez pas?), but to avoid conflicts with 77KN (Brutus #1), it couldn't be helped. Once we get under way, we should more than make up for it. We have an excellent geographic spread—Chip Charnley, while also a NY address, is really in Argentina, Newfoundland. One person paid with stamps last game, so to the couple of you who still owe the \$2, be informed that unlicked stamps are acceptable.

And remind me to never try and type within 1" of page bottom again

JOHN'S NOTES (Conclusion, at last!)

in a while, but your usual IDA-type stuff doesn't usually merit typing up. It's largely a list of which "officers" are no longer active, etc. Maybe it should be run as humor?

Players in Game 2 may find a copy of my initial letter seeking players enclosed. Mark Berch's letter reminded me that a lot of you who came to BB through plugs in Claw & Fang or Black Hole never saw one, so I'll include it just for reference purposes. Also, I have 3 or 4 extra copies of issue one, in case any of you Game 2 folks want one +/or don't have one. Let me know if you REALLY want one so that in case they're gone, I'll send you a xerox copy of my file copy. It won't come out very sharp, but if you want it, it's there.

One final(?) note: Tony Watson's RURITANIA reviewed last issue is in an announced process of rejuvenation, and should "soon be back on schedule". If you're at all SF-oriented and/or looking for a game, contact Tony at 201 Minnesota, Las Vegas, NV

GAME TWO PLAYERS: This issue once again is graced with loads of press. I have a little bit already on file for your S01 season. Please view the excellent outpouring of 77KN press as a CHALLENGE to you to at least try to match. If you can meet just half of the amount they've so far chugged out, BB can be an excellent press zine, as well as be that much more interesting for us all. Personally, I already think BB is an excellent press zine, but if we can spread it across 2 games instead of one, it will speak for the whole zine rather than for just one game, as it might be in the eyes of some cynic.

*ph*



"Grannie, your horoscope says be prepared for a whirlwind romance!"

When God made the oyster, He guaranteed his economic and social security. He built the oyster a house, a shell to protect him. When hungry, the oyster simply opens his shell and food rushes in. But when God made the eagle, He said, "The blue sky is the limit. Build your own house." So the eagle built on the highest mountain where storms threaten every day. For food, he flies through miles of rain and snow and wind.

The eagle, not the oyster, is the emblem of America.

*The Pallet User*

We don't give our criminals much punishment, but we sure give 'em plenty of publicity.

*Will Rogers*

The average man that I encounter all over the country regards government as a sort of great milk cow, with its head in the clouds eating air, and growing a full teat for everybody on earth.

*Dean Clarence Manion*



Maybe what we really need in the country is a silent minority...

*Conservative Digest December 1977*



## LETTERS

CRAIG A BEGES: I received your letter and HBe today. You ask how I manage to handle eight games. Well, I wish I had enough people to fill FORTH. It's tough getting these things started. I hope Don will plug my zine, too. I picked up 2 orphan games from Len Lefkowitz and have very few others above those 13 people. I received no issue of BB as of yet. Please send me your copy for nothing (great price!!) Am I to assume from your letter that I'm in a ~~new~~ game?

Have you a copy of the IDANA Publishers Handbook? If not, write me and I'll see to it you get one. I'll take your suggestion on trades. Hope it is successful. By the way, I'm in 7 games so this helps my free time. That and the fact that my average time of going to sleep is about 3:30 AM, I am quite capable on most occasions of doing with 3-4 hours a night and without totally on occasion. It really helps. It does catch up with me, however, so every couple of weeks I find it necessary to drop off for about 15 hours straight "Recharging" I call it. Well, enough of this. Hope to hear from you soon. I owe you a sample.

((Yes, I do have an old copy of the Handbook, thanks. With that little sleep, you should be able to play in 30-35 concurrent games, like one of BBs player's do. I forget who, but I figure that there's one guy from whom little press can be expected!

JOHN MIRASSOU Lots of things to cover this time. First of all thanks for the orphan information. I'll take both of them; if there's the player interest, and if the old gamesmaster doesn't suddenly reappear. Postcards are going out to everyone tomorrow to see what the response is.

Sya-Dasti...really does mean something. It's from a Sci-Fi trilogy called ILLUMINATUS, and means "everything I say is true and false and meaningless". It's really a weird set of books. Sya-Notsy-Totsy-Pastafazool #4 will come out either this weekend or next weekend, depending on how much studying for finals I get done. Those nasty little tests start Dec 5. Blech!

Bioplomacy really is a variant. I thought it looked kind of interesting, so I opened it up. BB is really looking good! I'll give it a plug in the next issue. Thanks for telling me about Alan ((Rowland)) offering to swap games with you. I'd make the deal with him, except he's already signed up for the game. I think a little more interest is going to be generated now, though. I HOPE! /Press for BB should be coming in a few days or so. ((Notes on orders)) Thanks for the address stickers for the orphans. I've never seen anyone xerox as many things as you do! Whoops, looks like I'm running out of room, which is alright, as I think I covered everything. /Oh, yeah, I forgot. As of Dec 7, I'll be back in Morgan Hill until January.

((I hope SOMEone can adopt 77FJ & HH; I'm not doing too badly in them! Bioplomacy was written up as a variant in Sya-Dasti... involving different animal life forms, if you can imagine that. I thought it was a humor article, but I guess it's serious, judging from the above. I do xerox a lot of stuff here, but the girls from our land dept alone throw away enough waste copies each day to print a double issue of BB twice a week. I'll print your COA next issue, but it will only apply for about two weeks after that...Fortunately, as Italy, it may well not make a heck of a lot of difference one way or the other, judging on my own experience in 77IC))

LETTERS

Good luck with your "Brutus Bullitin". Your deadlines are going to be a little to brsk for my tatse ah taste. In that regard, here's a quote from "Brouhaha" #4, after he had 3 NMRs in Fall 1901 in two games "Some people told me that my dead lines would cause a high NMR rate. I laughed, but now I have second thoughts. Maybe my 17 day deadlines are too short. I may lenghten the deadlines to 21 days" With your not allowing phone orders, things will be even worse.

Also, I do not think that your "The GM is the final arbiter without recourse" is a good idea at all, ~~ex~~ especially since you are a novice GM. There are experienced Ombudsmen around (a CDO one and an IDA/NA one) whose services should be used. You have no ideax what kinds of thigs are going to turn up from your players. I have had some very bitter experiences with one GM who would not alter his position even when the Ombudman opined that his position was unreasonable. @ I assume you know that I'm referrring to ~~██████████~~, who is the only unpricipled GM it has ever beem my misfortune to run across. On the otherhand, another GM allowed appeal to the Ombudsman, and when he made an adjudication error which I could not get him to see was an error (he disallowed "F Aeg - Bul") I appealed to the Ombudman as per the house rules. The ombudsman stated that he felt that the move was entirely proper, located precedents in his own files, the GM reversed himself, and no hard feelings resultzed. (The GM then amended the HR's to state that the coast must always be given even if the rulebook doesn't require it, but that's another matter). So think about it.

I noticed that Lipton was a little cross with you in the recent TMG. I think that he was a little pissed with you for the bad tip.

Don't forget to give me a plug in your zine, OK????

Thanx,



(492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304)

Mark, I'll be the first to agree that my deadlines are too short for most people. That's why no one else runs a zine like BB. That's also why I set mine up that way. As you know, new zines usually take months and months to get their first game started; I got two started in the space of five weeks. Part of this may be attributed to my dirt-cheap rates, but a good part too must be the fast pace. I think BB's success can be attributed to the apparently significant number of people out there who, like me, want to get on with the game instead of sitting around forever (or so it seems) just to get somebody's builds listed for the month. On NMR's, you may get me, as I'm writing this two weeks before the first Fall '01. Page three of this issue should tell the story. Personally, I'm willing to go out on a limb here and now and say that while there might be one, I'm predicting NO NMRs at all! My readers have proven exceptional, as near as I can tell, in their interest, moves, press, payment record, you-name-it. My fast pace forces them to, and they wouldn't have signed up if they didn't like the pace, just as you declined on that account. If someone can't keep up, 2 NMRs will wipe them out and the others can pick up the pieces (and centers).

The "final recourse" bit was thrown in precisely for the reasons you imply. In case of a problem, I decided before starting that I'd call Doug Reif or Don Horton; however, if I said what you quote, there'd be no one crying "foul" and dragging things out, for they'd be pre-warned that I'd make a ruling and that would be it. Not perfect, true, but necessary to maintain the pace. I appreciate your bringing these things up, though, as it gives me a good chance to lay it all out in the open, in case anyone might have misunderstood. The no-calls rule is waived in emergencies (such as imminent NMR), but this is POSTAL Diplomacy, and it's the players job to get orders to me in time, irregardless. Also, DD will be plugged in my next set of plugs for hobby-wide classic cases, including DW, etc.



## EEO ROUNDUP

*This article, written in 1975 by Art Buchwald, is still appropriate today.*

Everett Dollop, a friend who hires people for Ozone Aviation, was telling me his troubles the other night.

"I'm going crazy," he said.

"The law says that when a federal contract is awarded to a company the employer is required to draw up an affirmative action plan for hiring, which means he has to show he will hire minorities and women appropriate to their general skills."

"What's wrong with that?" I asked.

"Nothing except that the law also states that firms with government contracts have to submit reports to the government on how many veterans they have hired."

"So?"

"So," said Dollop, "we eliminate male whites over 25 years of age to start with."

"Why over 25 years of age?"

"Because there is a federally supported program to promote the hiring of youths and we're pledged to support it."

"So when it comes to a job," I said, "you have your choice of women, minorities, veterans, and youths."

"And handicapped people. The

law requires employers with government contracts to make a good faith effort to hire appropriate numbers of handicapped people. At the same time, we can get a tax break if we hire people from the welfare rolls. So it's to our advantage to hire the last group."

"That makes sense."

"At the same time," Dollop said, "the company is a member of National Alliance of Businessmen which supports the hiring of ex-offenders."

"You have quite a varied group to pick from," I said.

"We also are involved with a program that encourages the hiring of the disadvantaged who are not on welfare rolls. And last week my boss agreed to give jobs to members of the Spanish-speaking community."

"There hardly seems to be anybody left."

"I have no difficulty when a white male nonveteran walks in my office. I just throw him out as that quota has been filled for several years. But what do I do when a veteran, a woman, a black, and a person on welfare all apply for the same job?"

"I guess you give it to the

one who is most qualified."

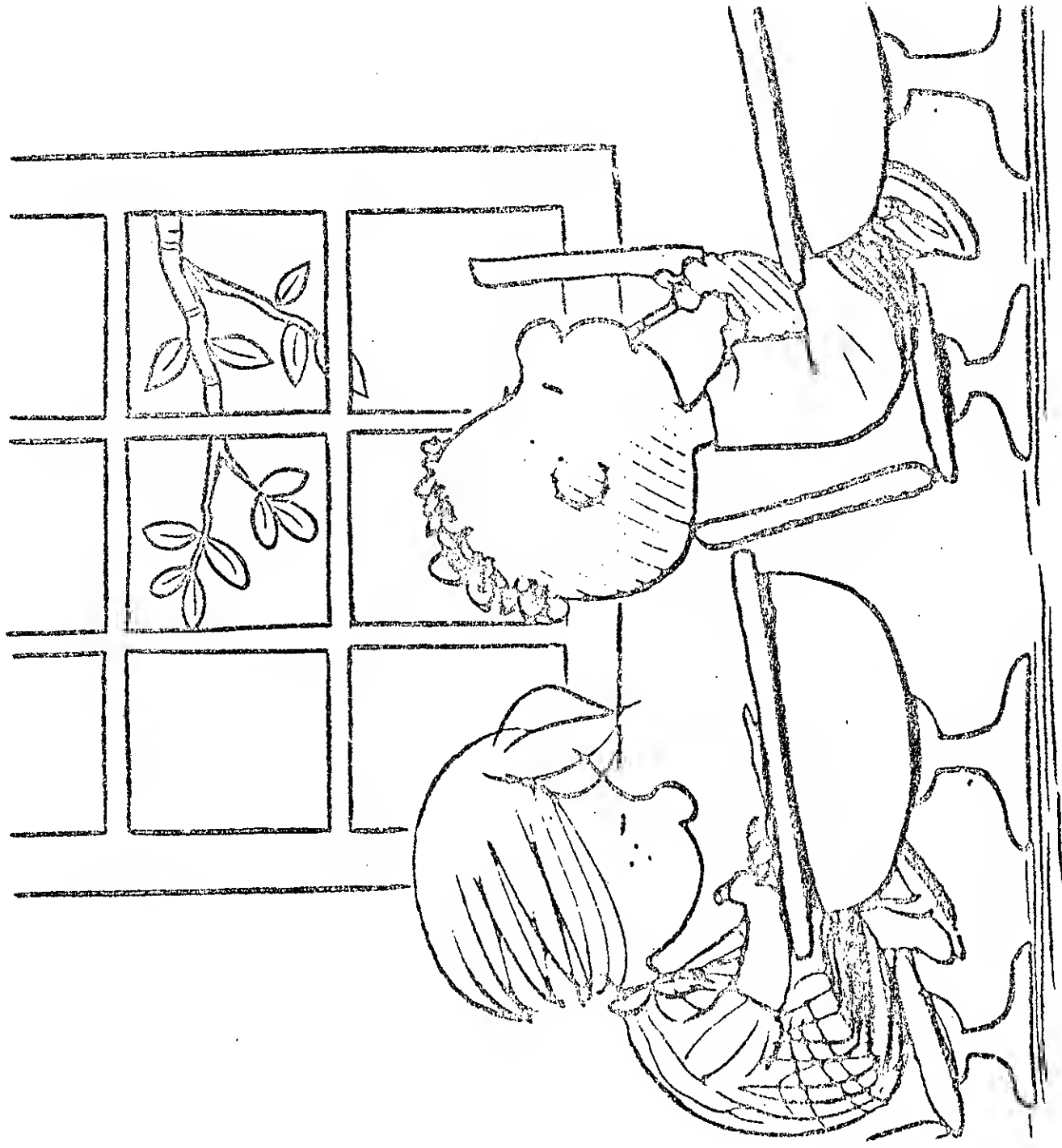
"No matter who I give it to the other people are going to sue us for discrimination. Our legal fees are more than the job is worth."

"Why don't you advertise for a black woman who served in the armed forces, speaks Spanish, has some form of infirmity, would like to get off welfare, and did some time in jail."

"They're not as easy to find as you would think. Besides no newspaper will allow you to put sex or color in a classified advertisement. We also are not permitted to mention age. All we can say is that there are job openings. Once they apply I have to weed them out to follow the affirmative action plan."

"It sounds like you have to play God every day," I said.

"Well, I was doing pretty good getting a favorable mix until I got this notice from the Fair Employment Practice Commission. 'Could you please let us know how many American Indian weightwatchers you have on your payroll and when you expect your quota to be filled?'"



SOME LETTERS MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D NEVER  
LEARNED TO READ.

Fall 1279

The passage of the seasons once again sees me promoted. Now I am a general. And the spoils of victory are mine to taste. Were I not such a good musselman I would shout the praises of Bulgarian wine from the rooftops. And the women, which thank Allah, I'm allowed a suitable number of, are wonderful. Generals are denied nothing.

With the end of the summers heat the quiet rooftops where I planned my maneuvers, are given over to the problems of the forthcoming campaign. I shall be given command of a division and I shall lead it northward in the name of the All Glorious One. The Giver of All Things That Are Given has given me this.

Already I've led raids into the northlands and the booty has been fantastic. The poor land seems such an unusual place to find such delicacies, but they are there. And the food and gold brought back were rich as well. Allah has been merciful, though I am much fatigued by my duties. May Allah grant me strength.

\*\* From My Weekly Reader series on dangerous American cities:

Once upon a time many disgustingly dirty coal and factory workers squald so bad that they were thrown out of their native France. As soon as they arrived via barge in New York they were loaded into railroad cars and whicked westward until the train tracks stoppel.

These evil-smelling, ill-mannered, ignorant expellees exited the cattle cars and founded the City of Fontanna. The name itself is Basque for Fountain of Toxic Smoke. Fontanna's founding fathers knew no way to survive but to work in grimy factories as they had done in the old country. So the early citizens built polluted factory after polluting factory. It was no easy task to use new materials and produce a weathered, leaky, and run-down result, even for the filthy experts of Fontanna.

Soon their neighbors in California began to resent the people of Fontanna because the stench from the Fontanna industries was fouling the fresh Los Angeles air. After a ritualistic hanging of the Fontanna mayor, the city was ordered out of Los Angeles County. It was forced to flee sixty miles into the desert where, it was hoped, the people of Fontanna would choke themselves to death on poisonous fumes.

They didn't die, but the <sup>offensive</sup> ~~offensive~~ <sup>of</sup> Fontanna have not discovered how to clean up their acts. The gas which they breathe has caused certain important centers of their brains to be destroyed. Specifically, the inhibitory controls and the repression of the stabbing instinct seem to be absent in subjects from that city, scientists say.

Contact with the residents, therefore, is not recommended.

Note to the teacher: Should any questions be raised about the research for this article, doubters should refer to a map of California to see Fontanna's geographic position. As for the error mentioned, send a post card to a postmaster in any city within 20 miles of Fontanna. Ask him how he would classify the smell of the Fontanna steel mill. (The response will be rated "X".)

\*\* Subject, John. Anyone who can't spell "Larivoli" correctly is too stupid on marijuana to know what he's doing.

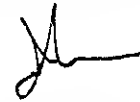
\*\* PARIS-PARIS: Your message was received where Germany was last reached, the Kaiser. To ride silent go, the government is sending its best troops to Berlin. The German men are anxious to teach you a few lessons.

PRESS, PRESS, PRESS

- \*\* The light, clean blue of France has swept back the Black Terror to the North. Who would you say is more the fool, a country with five possible enemies that doesn't write or a country with three. Besides communication is the oldest excuse in Diplomacy to fight.  
I can only say, come and get Black Phantom!
- \*\* FRANCE-GERMANY: Come and get it you peasants!
- \*\* FRANCE-ENGLAND: That includes Limeys too!
- \*\* FRANCE to RUSSIA & AUSTRIA: Either of you entering Central Europe will be given full assistance into Munich, compliments of David the Dagger, Emperor of France.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Late Note: First, I'd like to apologize for the poor reproduction on Craig Reges' letter, which was due to using a bad machine here; even the next item, a clear and crisp original, failed to come through very well. I wish I'd had the time to re-do these, but I didn't. Next, Mark Berch received an early copy of my answer to his, and he wrote back to insist on the censoring you see. Actually he wanted more deleted, but to save making 82 new copies and still satisfy his demand, I blotted out the GM's name in his letter. Next, PLAYER copies of this zine will have corrections of the many typo's on the letter page with John Mirassou's (et.al.) letter, but you others may or may not find that to be true. My fault; I printed the master before correcting it, and now I'm stuck, and I won't delay an issue for that. Finally, John, I wouldn't have had to fill this space if you'd sent in another  $\frac{1}{2}$  page of press like I was expecting you to! (✓)



\*\*\*\*\*

Here are some bumper stickers from the oil patch country here you may have missed seeing elsewhere: (Left side:) All for Oil (Right side:) Oil for All  
Question: Does the left side mean "everyone for oil", or "everything you've got for oil"?

ECOLOGISTS / Let the bastards FREEZE in the DARK  
(The above is NOT available from your local Sierra Club)

Favorite of a reader:

DON'T LAUGH—IT'S PAID FOR

# Bureaucratic Blunders

## Pity the Postman

When an Illinois welfare recipient dies, the state welfare department automatically sends him a note informing him his benefits are being discontinued because he's dead . . . The change of address problem must be horrendous.

*Furbes*

\* \*

## Dad Violates Son's "Rights"

A Greenwood, Ind., policeman who searched his son's bedroom violated the youth's rights, and so burglary charges against the son were dropped. Superior Court Judge Robert Smith dismissed the charges against 19-year-old Michael Moran, who had been accused of burglarizing a home in August 1976. Moran's father, Lieutenant Junice Moran, said he searched his son's room in late August and found a stereo set believed taken in the burglary. He said he confronted the youth with the discovery and said his son admitted the break-in.

*(Robert M. Mitchell, E. Chicago, Ind.)*

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Michael James, 25, of Chippewa Falls, Wisc., told a judge he would not accept a job as part of his sentence because the \$350/month job would pay less than the \$300 county assistance and \$130 in food stamps and medical assistance he was already receiving.

*(Carl V. Kolata, Watertown, Wisc.)*

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Each car in San Francisco's new rapid-transit system will have a door-opener-and-closer. Each doorman will be paid \$20,250 a year, plus \$4,500 in fringe benefits. San Francisco's rapid transit administration has ordered the company building the cars to leave out electrical controls that would allow the operator in the front car to control all of the train's doors.

*(Dan M. Jacobson, Sacramento, Calif.)*

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## Privies Aplenty

The largest ranch in the U.S. must install almost 9 million toilets and 9 million lavatories, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Ad-

ministration. OSHA has ruled that "health and safety of cowboys and farmworkers require a toilet and lavatory with running water within a ten-minute walk from any point on a farm or ranch." Which means that the 900,000-acre King Ranch in Texas needs 18 million plumbing fixtures.

*(Patrick Neilond, San Antonio, Tex.)*

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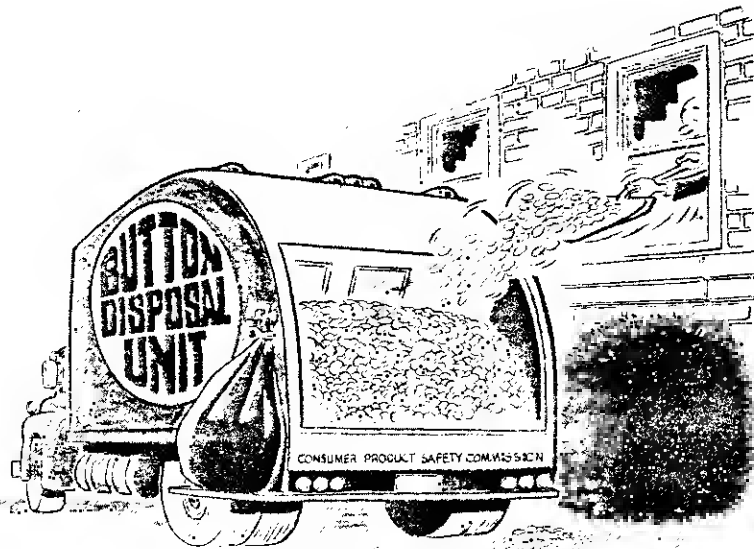
A patient suffering from epileptic seizures was sent to a Texas rehabilitation agency for vocational training. The agency told the patient to come back when his seizures were under better control. He was not employable, they said, and training wouldn't help.

Later, after his medication had been carefully adjusted so he was having no seizures, the patient went back, only to be turned down again. Since he no longer suffered seizures he was not considered disabled and was therefore ineligible for training.

*(H. E. Pierce, Denton, Tex.)*

An effort by the federal government to improve highway safety has led to more accidents instead of fewer. In 1974, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ordered a complex antilock braking system in all commercial vehicles that use air brakes, designed to permit bus and truck drivers to stop in a shorter distance. But the system often has given the wrong signal, resulting either in no brakes at all, or a sudden locking — the very risk it was supposed to eliminate. One trucking company reports vehicles with electronic air brakes have had four times as many jack-knife accidents as those without, and a West Coast trucking fleet disconnected the system in each of its 900 new trucks because it was so dangerous.

*(Harold R. Sproul, Los Gatos, Calif.)*



The Consumer Product Safety Commission recently planned a campaign to promote safety in children's toys. A slogan—"For kids' sake, think toy safety"—was printed on some 80,000 bright yellow buttons, embellished with a teddy bear's picture.

But before the crusade got underway somebody discovered that the buttons to be used in the campaign had sharp edges, indeed sharp enough to cause injuries. That was bad enough.

But then came the further discovery that the buttons were coated with the same lead paint (harmful if ingested by children) which was to be one of the targets of the campaign. So, some bright red bureaucratic faces tossed the 80,000 bright yellow buttons out of the window.

Oh, well, it's only taxpayers' money.

*(John F. McLeod, Jacksonville, Fla.)*

This "open letter" is designed as an ad to be carried in liberal opinion magazines whose readers tend to support gun control. The Foundation believes that supporters of the Second Amendment must communicate our message to those yet to be convinced. This ad is the first of several efforts the Foundation will be making to stop the bad habit of only talking among ourselves. If you would like to see this ad run in certain publications please fill out the coupon below. And if you can, send along a contribution to help us place some ads.

## An Open Letter to the National Council to Control Handguns From a Civil Rights Activist

Several times recently, I've received copies of your appeal. I'm not surprised-- I belong to and support a number of liberal causes involved with civil rights and liberties-- and, very likely you've gotten my name from several mailing lists. I would like to ask that you send me no more appeals. I do not support your view and have no intention of doing so.

I come out of a racially mixed background-- Indian and White-- and my roots go deep into this land. Trained as a sociologist, I am currently a professor in the Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Iowa and am also The U. of I.'s Advisor to the American Indian students. I have had many firearms-- and currently have seven including a handgun for target/plinking purposes.

In the early 1960's, I taught at Tougaloo College-- a Black school in Mississippi. I served as the Advisor to the Jackson Youth Council of the NAACP, was a member of the statewide board of the NAACP, and was Chairman of the Strategy Committee of the Jackson Movement during the massive demonstrations in the spring and summer of 1963. I was beaten and arrested many times-- hospitalized on a couple of occasions. This happened to many, many people in the Movement. No one knows what kind of massive racist retaliation would have been directed against grassroots Black people had the Black community not had a healthy measure of firearms within it.

When the campus of Tougaloo College was fired upon in December, 1962, by White racial night-riders, my home was shot up and a bullet missed my infant daughter by inches. We received no help from the Justice Department and we guarded our campus-- faculty and students together-- on that and subsequent occasions. We let this be known in a calm and sensible manner and the racial attacks on Tougaloo slackened considerably. Night-riders are cowardly people and they take advantage of fear and weakness.

From 1969 to 1973, I was Southside Director of the Chicago Commons Association-- a large, privately funded social service agency. Our major focus on the Southside involved assisting Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican people in developing multi-issue block clubs involved with schools, civic services, housing, police/community relations, etc-- in the context of racially changing neighborhoods and White racial groups ranging from the American Nazi Party, to youth gangs, and other organizations similar to the White Citizens' Councils of the South. My staff and I received many death threats and, on one occasion, men came to my home-- with knives in their hands and in broad daylight-- to tell my wife and children that they intended to kill me. (I happened to be at work.) The police were not much help. Again, I was glad that I had weapons in my home-- particularly firearms-- and, just as we had in the South some years before, we guarded our home and let it be known that we were doing so. The would-be assailants never returned. We responded to hate calls on the telephone by telling the callers that we were prepared for them.

I noticed something else in Chicago. The police, honorably committed as the vast majority of them are, could not begin to deal with the crime situation in the city. Large numbers of people, certainly the low-income minority people with whom we worked, were glad when they had personal firearms protection. Outlaws can always get guns-- they can make them and they can use knives, a hatchet, or a vast number of other things.

What you propose-- the taking of handguns-- is, in my opinion, morally and legally wrong and quite unenforceable. We are a free people and have a natural right to possess firearms, we have the Second Amendment whose intent is quite clear to any objective person (as liberals, we take a sound view of the First Amendment; why do you not take the same honest view of the Second?); and we have a vast number of people in this country-- neither extremists nor outlaws-- who have no intention of seeing gun control legislation enacted.

You are not only after handguns but I am sure you are for a kind of national registration of all firearms-- Orwellian to the core-- and, in the last analysis, are after the confiscation of all firearms. There may be people in your group who are not prepared to go that far-- but I suspect that total confiscation is the ultimate goal of your prime movers.

The causes of crime are complex and involved; racism and ethnocentrism, poverty, urban congestion and at the same time inter-personal and mass alienation. They can't be constructively touched by gimmicky legislation-- but gimmicky legislation can hurt good people and seriously damage the libertarian traditions of this country.

Sincerely, Professor John R. Salter, Jr.

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